

What is claimed is:

1. A loading apparatus for a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a) a first frame;

b) a second frame having a chain mounted thereupon; and

5 A 5 ~~Cof~~ a locking system mounted on the first frame, the system having a drive wheel, a first arm member and a second arm member, the system being configured such that:

i) in a generally closed position, the chain engages the drive wheel in a first position, the drive wheel being connected to the arms; the arms being urged into the closed position; and

10 ii) in a generally open position, the chain engages the drive wheel in a second position, the arms being urged into the open position by the second frame.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

15 15 a) a third arm member;

b) a stationary support member fixably mounted on the drive wheel, the support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, and

c) a compressing member mounted on the support, the compressing member being attached to the arms, the arms being urged towards each other in the closed position

20 20 d) wherein the first arm member and the second arm member interlock with each other in the closed position.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2 in which:
- the first arm member has a projection extending outwardly therefrom, the arm member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being urged towards the chain, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the first end portion of the support;
  - the second arm member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being urged towards the chain, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the second end portion of the support member; and
  - the third arm member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the second end portion of the support member.
4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 in which:
- the third arm member has a groove disposed therein, the groove being shaped to cooperate with the projection on the first arm member.
5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the first frame further comprises:
- a front end portion and a rear end portion, the frame being mounted on a vehicle chassis;
  - a prime mover mounted on the chassis; and
  - an axle connected to the drive wheel to alternatively move the drive wheel in a first and a second direction
- A 6. A loading frame comprising:
- the first frame as claimed in claim 5;
  - an actuator; and

c) an elevatable support to receive a load from the second frame and connected to the actuator.

A 7.6. The loading frame as claimed in claim 5 further including:

A 7.6. a) a guide system having a central rail shaped to cooperate with the second frame.

A 8.7. The loading frame as claimed in claim 6 in which:

a) the rail has a slidably resilient material fixably mounted thereupon.

9.8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the second frame further comprises:

10 a) a plurality of wheels such that the second frame is movable relative to the first frame;

b) a first rail, a second rail and a central rail, the central rail being shaped so as to cooperate with the central rail on the first frame

A 10.9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which:

15 a) the second frame has a front end portion and a rear end portion, the front end portion being disposed towards the rear end portion of first frame.

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